

Warbirds Association News and Calendar

Contributed by Frank Parker

A **SHORT** while ago I wrote about the year that 'was'. With spring beckoning it is already the year ahead.

Planning is underway for the Annual Battle of Britain Flypast. This Flypast coincides with a Memorial Service held at the Auckland Cenotaph to commemorate that historical event. For NZWA it is regarded as the opener for the summer flying season.

It is scheduled for Sunday 19 Sep. The day will be an early start for pilots (not dairy farmer early though!) to tow aircraft and ready them before the brief at 9am and take off from 10am. As with last year, Warbirds are holding an Open Day during the afternoon with a limited flying display planned. All this is of course subject to the vagaries of the weather, and it is early Spring.

The coming season

- Current 'Events' on the Warbirds calendar for Summer after are
- Battle of Britain: 19 September
- Whitianga Fly-in: Late November
- Warbirds Open Day: 5 December
- Taupo 'Proms': 23 January
- Wings over Wairarapa: 30 January
- Art Deco Napier: February
- Classic Fighters Omaka: April

Practice Time

For participating pilots the winter holiday is over. Now it's time to crack the whip and polish the spurs; even for the BoB flypast pilots must ensure flying currency. For the Airshow events, pilots

to the shrill rasp of a colourful aerobatic aircraft being put through its paces at least twice a week. This translates to a wonderful airshow demonstration by Doug Brooker in his MX-2 performing manoeuvres that aircraft are not meant to do.



The latest addition to the Warbirds hangar at Ardmore is this DHC Chipmunk, purchased by a new syndicate.

More to see at the hangar

On the ground, the NZWA Visitor Centre at the Ardmore Hanger continues development. The latest additions are some informative 'wall stories' (which co-incidentally are 'war stories')

have a rigorous flight training program ahead to reach a professional standard for the prestigious events at Wairarapa and Omaka.

For the Harvard Team (which I am involved with) this will start with formation practice leading up to formation loops before we start co-ordinating a show sequence. This will require five or more hours of flying before we reach a display standard. As the season progresses we will work on tweaks and improvements with regular practices. By the end of the season each pilot would have put in 12 plus hours of practice to achieve a 'show standard'. Now, about that new kitchen dear!

Of course any pilots in the 'Show Circuit' need to be on the top of their game before they perform. If you live in the Counties area you will be well used

and the beginning of model displays. The association has been gifted several prestigious model collections over the years but we have not had a suitable area to display them. It is with some gratitude that this situation has been addressed with the development of the Visitor Centre.

New on the 'information' front is a NZ Warbirds Facebook page. This is an adjunct to the Associations Website with the aim being to provide up to date information through this social media.

Stop Press News is the arrival of DHC Chipmunk ZK-SAX. This aircraft has been purchased by a newly formed syndicate to operate from the Ardmore Base. The Chipmunk's role is of an entry level, tail-wheel, aerobatic Warbird which will be a welcome addition to the fleet.

Cheers FP.

NEW ZEALAND WARBIRDS

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